

Keeping DPS Principals ConnectED

A publication from the desk of Assistant Superintendents Patricia Slaughter & Antwan Wilson

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NOTE: The Calendar of events can now be found at the end of this document. [Click here.](#)

ACTION REQUIRED

Online Site Assessment Leader (SAL) Identification: Identify your SALs online! The Dept. of Accountability, Research & Evaluation (ARE) is requesting that you identify SALs by August 5 to allow for time to train SALs properly in order to ensure a smooth administration of district assessments. The new system is accessible via the [ARE homepage](#). Please contact [Justin Schmidt](#) if you have any questions or experience difficulties logging in to the system. [Click here](#) to access additional resources and information.

STAR 101 & Data Analysis Training Sessions: In preparing for the use of the STAR system for the 2011-12 school year, K-5 Schools are required to participate in the below training sessions. Please review the course descriptions and sign up soon. You can register by contacting [Kelly Gilmore](#) to schedule an on-site training session. Don't forget to indicate which session(s) you are registering for.

STAR 101 is a required training session for schools new to using the STAR reading assessment. It is offered as a 45-minute session at your school. STAR 101 training must be completed between August 10 – 19.

STAR Data Analysis Training consists of 3 components (Screening, Targeting and Monitoring). Sessions 1 & 2 are offered as a combined on-site 90-minute training that covers Screening & Targeting. Session 3 is offered as a 45-minute on-site training and covers Monitoring. All sessions are required and must be scheduled between August 22 – November 4.

****Please note:** Due to the Reading Enterprise upgrade for STAR, K-5 Title 1 Schools must be re-trained on the updated data analysis components.*

ELA Teacher Designation Site Opens August 3: The ELA Teacher Designation Site will open on August 3. In order for teachers to be able to register for fall classes, all designations must be submitted by August 15. ELA Program school principals, please log on to the site prior to August 15 and assign an ELA designation to each teacher who works with ELA program students. [Attached](#) is a list of available ELA designations.

New this year, all new teacher hires are designated ELA T and must complete all ELA T training requirements within one year of hire. All new teachers are designated ELA T automatically. No action is needed on your part. Access the [Teacher Designation site](#).

October Count Reminders: As school approaches, so does the time to start thinking about October Count. **The official October Count Day for this year will be Friday, September 30** – the window will be open September 23 – October 7. Please **designate your school's October Count POC no later than August 12**. To update your school's POC information, please refer to the [October Count Information Sheet \(Point #2\)](#). All October Count POCs will be expected to attend a 2-hour training session during a scheduled time between September 19 – 23. Currently, we are working on two CDE audits for October Count: 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 SY. Your school will be contacted if there are student-level audit requests. To reduce audit requests, please see the [October Count Information Sheet \(Point #6\)](#) to view best practices about attendance, enrollment and schedule. For more information about this process please refer to the [October Count Information Sheet](#). Please refer to the attached [October Count calendar](#) to see all the dates associated with October Count. If you have any questions, please contact [the Student Submissions Team](#). Thank you for all of your support!

UPDATES

Organizational Changes/Announcements:

Jason Martinez has been selected as the new **Deputy of Academic Operations**. Jason joins us after serving the Chief Academic Officer as Director of Strategy. Prior to serving as Director, Jason worked as an Instructional Superintendent and Principal in DPS.

James Scott will serve as the new **Instructional Superintendent for the Far Northeast Region**. James is returning to the district after serving in Aurora Public Schools for the last ten years as a principal and assistant principal.

Michael Eaton is the new **Chief of Safety and Security** for DPS. Eaton replaced Ed Ray, who retired in June. He is extremely excited to serve the district in this new role and looks forward to

meeting with all the principals and staff at the start of the school year. Please feel free to call him with any questions, comments, concerns or needs regarding security services.

Theresa Hafner was named the new **Executive Director of Enterprise Management**, effective August 1. Most recently she was Director of Finance & Support Services within Enterprise Management. In her new key role as Executive Director, she will have responsibility for Food and Nutrition Services, Warehouse and Distribution, Vending Services, Athletics, Fixed Assets and the School Supply Store.

SES On-Site Providers Selection Deadline is August 26: If your school is on at least its second year of improvement as measured by AYP, your students may qualify for Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for the 2011-2012 school year. Your CSC/Leadership Team has the opportunity to choose on-site providers to serve students in your school who are eligible and apply. This year the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is requiring that we have a clear, fair and equitable process when choosing providers to be on-site. Therefore, please visit the [Department of Federal Programs website](#) to view the CDE approved fair and equitable process and to view more resources and information. Please feel free to contact Scott Gorsky, Program Manager of SES, at 720.423.8234 for more information. [Click here](#) to view more information on SES.

New ELA Teacher Qualification Training Model: DPS is rolling out a new **ELA Teacher Qualification Training model** that will increase access to English Language Acquisition training for **all** teachers. Our commitment and goal is to build our teachers' capacity to support ELLs in all classrooms and ensure teachers know, understand and apply research-based best practices for linguistically diverse students. Effective August 2011, **all** newly hired **Denver Public School teachers**, including current DPS employees who have changed assignments and are now classroom teachers, will be automatically designated **ELA-T** and will be required to successfully complete the ELA Summer Academic Academy, New Educator Institute and an online "ELA 101" course, and become ELA-T qualified within one year of their hire date.

Enhancements, aligned to the EEE framework, have also been made to the training options for teachers required to complete **ELA-E** and **ELA-S** training qualification requirements. These changes will apply to all teachers (including SPED & Resource teachers) designated through the **existing annual ELA teacher designation process**. Advanced ELA content training will also be open to non-designated teachers, who want to build the skills to enhance their effectiveness in the classroom.

Please forward the [Update](#) to your staff, and refer to the [ELA Department Website](#) and Buenos Dias newsletter for new information. Fall 2011 ELA training course information will be posted in mid-August in preparation for registration beginning August 29. Please subscribe to the Buenos Dias newsletter at buenos_dias@dpsk12.org.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DPS Arts Kickoff – August 15: Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts teachers are encouraged to attend the DPS Arts Kickoff. There will be two sessions available. This is a great opportunity to learn and discover information that is relevant to art instructors. Information that will be shared includes district information (that is relevant to arts instructors), such as new arts standards, the LEAP system, PDU/PD options, as well as content-specific information. For more information or to sign up, please contact: [Capucine Chapman](#) or [John Epps](#).

Date: Monday, August 15
Time: Two sessions: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Loc: West High School auditorium
RSVP: No later than August 12

**Please note: These sessions do require Principal approval*

9News Great Hang-Up: DPS has teamed up with DPD and 9News for the “Great Hang-Up” campaign, which aims to teach students about the dangers of distracted driving. As part of this campaign, 9News anchors Eric Kahnert and Amelia Earhart would like to present at DPS high schools interested in spreading the word about this program, and encourage students to pledge to not text and drive. Schools that issue parking passes to students will have students sign the Great Hang-Up pledge as they are receiving their passes. Let us know if your school issues parking passes. Please email [Kristy Armstrong](#) in the Communications Office if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and would like to have 9News visit your school to spread the word to students about this program. A couple suggested events include:

- A full assembly such as GW’s, which included a powerful presentation from a mother in Fort Collins whose daughter was killed by a distracted driver
- Have Amelia or Eric set up a sign-up table during an open house or back-to-school event
- Piggy-back on an assembly or pep rally already scheduled this fall

Highly Gifted Program Application Deadline is October 3: Please note, the HGT applications will be on the GT Department web page by mid-August. Flyers will be sent to all DPS students K-7 regarding the HGT application deadline and the information night dates. Please publicize the date throughout your school community. If you have any questions, please contact [Cathy Gonzales](#).

Automatic External Defibrillators (AED): DPS and the American Red Cross (ARC) have joined in a partnership to place AEDs in all of our schools and administrative buildings. The ARC has received a grant to place these devices throughout the Denver area. In order to get one of these devices you will need to designate at least five expected responders in your school. These should be staff that will mostly likely be at the school every day. These expected responders will need to attend training and be certified by the ARC. Training will be at Del Pueblo. Please visit the [Risk Management website](#) for more information on signing up for training.

Supplemental Assessment Technology Grant Deadline Extended – August 8: As recently communicated, DPS has allocated some savings from the 2008 DPS Bond Program to provide additional assessment technology to schools through *Supplemental Assessment Technology (SAT)* grants. The technology equipment purchased centrally for schools from these bond funds will support schools’ continued use of instructional technology while increasing schools’ capacity for successful online assessing. ***The application deadline for these SAT grants has been extended to August 8.*** See this [website](#) for more information and for the grant application documents (found on the left side of the website). For questions, please contact [Teresa Hernandez](#).

Please be aware:

Applications are due by August 8 at 4 p.m. We understand this is a short application timeline, but to provide some additional equipment support to schools during the first round of mid-August assessments, this date is necessary so clickers can be ordered and distributed to schools.

Due to timing and logistics, the first round of grants will only be for *eInstruction Pulse clicker sets*.

There will be two future rounds for these grants (deadlines: September 15 and December 15). So if you're currently unsure what your school needs for online assessing, or you don't have the time to complete this first grant application, please consider applying in future rounds. Notifications will be sent well-in-advance of each future round. ***Schools can apply in more than one round.***

Currently only *eInstruction Pulse* clickers work with the Schoolnet Assess module—the vehicle for delivering online assessments.

Teacher Coupon: White House Black Market is offering all teachers 15% off their purchase now through September 6 at all locations! All teachers, have to do is simply tell the associate that they are a teacher, and present their school ID and they will receive 15% off their purchase. Please [click here](#) to access the coupon.

RESOURCES

Regional School Assignments: [Attached](#) is the updated **Regional School Assignments** for the 2011-12 school year. Please share this information with your teams.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Deadline / Event
Aug. 5	Deadline: Site Assessment Leaders due. ID your SALs Online: http://testing.dpsk12.org/
Aug. 8	Deadline: Supplemental Assessment Technology Grant deadline (future grant round deadlines: Sep. 15 & Dec. 15)
Aug. 10 - 19	STAR 101 Training
Aug. 12	Deadline: October Count POC designations due
Aug. 15	Deadline: ELA Teacher Designations must be submitted <i>ELA Teacher Designation Site opens on Aug. 3</i>
Aug. 15	DPS Arts Kickoff Event @ West HS auditorium 2 Sessions available: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. / 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. RSVP: August 12
Aug. 22 – Nov. 4	STAR Data & Analysis Training
Aug. 26	Deadline: Supplemental Educational Services (SES) On-site Provider Selection is due
Aug. 29	ELA Training Course Registration opens <i>Fall 2011 ELA Training Course Info. Will be posted by mid-August</i>
Sept. 19 – 23	October Count Training
Sept. 23 – Oct. 7	October Count Window is open
Sept. 30	Official October Count Day
Oct. 3	Deadline: Highly Gifted Program App due

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